

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /085 W

-----020965 292222Z /75

R 280910Z MAR 78

FM AMCONGEN NAPLES

TO RUFHOM /AMEMB ROME IT//2388

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5975

AMCONGEN MILAN IT

RUFHOM /AMCONGEN PALERMO IT// 140

RUFHOM /AMCONGEN GENOA IT//111

RUFHOM /AMCONGEN FLORENCE IT//92

USDOCOSOUTH

UNCLAS NAPLES 549

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: NAPLES BUDGET APPROVED WITH D.C. SUPPORT

REF: NAPLES 323

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE LIFE OF THE PCI - LED NAPLES CITY ADMINISTRATION, THE DC OPENLY JOINED WITH THE PCI AND LAY PARTIES MARCH 24 TO APPROVE THE NAPLES BUDGET. ONLY THE LIBERALS, MSI AND RECENTLY ALIENATED PDUP COUNCILMEN VOTED AGAINST. THE DC COULD HAVE

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PROVIDED ONE SO-CALLED "TECHNICAL" VOTE TO PREVENT CITY GOVERNMENT COLLAPSE (AS IT DID LAST YEAR) WITH UNPREDICTABLE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES. HOWEVER, THIS YEARS NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLITICAL MILIEU CAUSED THE NAPLES DC TO CHANGE ITS POSTURE.

2. DC GROUP LEADER MARIO FORTE DECLARED BEFORE THE VOTE THAT, BASED ON POOR PERFORMANCE OF THE LEFTIST ADMINISTRATION "WE SHOULD VOTE AGAINST THE BUDGET". HE THEN INDICATED THAT DC SUPPORT WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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PREDICATED ON ANTICIPATED CHANGE IN THE "POLITICAL FRAMEWORK", I.E. REPLACEMENT OF PCI MAYOR VALENZI WITH A LAY PARTY FIGURE (REFTEL) UNTIL THAT OCCURS, CLAIMED FORTE, THE DC WILL NOT SIT WITH THE OTHER PARTIES AT THE "NEGOTIATING TABLE". REACTION TO FORTE'S REMARKS AND THE FAVORABLE DC VOTE BY PCI AND OTHERS WAS POSITIVE BUT, INITIALLY AT LEAST, WITHOUT SPECIFIC PROMISE.

3. INTERNAL DC DEBATE LEADING TO THE VOTE WAS ACRIMONIOUS. ALTHOUGH

BOTH GAVA (DOROTEO "BOSS" IN NAPLES) FOLLOWERS AND "ALTERNATE SLATE" (ANDREOTTIANI, BASE, ETC) MEMBERS FINALLY JOINED IN A UNITARY STANCE ON THE BUDGET VOTE, THE APPROACH OF THE LATTER GROUP WAS SELF-DESCRIBED AS "FORTHCOMING" TOWARDS A BROAD POLITICAL ACCORD AS DISTINGUISHED FROM GAVA'S "BEGRUDGING" FOCUS ON THE BUDGET. BOTH GROUPS, RATHER EVENLY MATCHED IN THE CONTENTION FOR CONTROL OF NAPLES

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DC, REMAINED ADAMANT IN UNIFIED REJECTION OF ANY "EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT" SOLUTION FOR THE CITY.

4. COMMENT: NOW THAT THE NAPLES DC, HAS GIVEN ITS QUO REPEAT QUO (BEGINNING OF PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR A LEFTIST CITY GIUNTA) THE QUID REPEAT QUID WILL BE EAGERLY AWAITED. COLANTONIO.

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